

Amendments To The Claims

Please renumber and amend the claims below, according to the listing of claims below, which replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Note that claims numbered 2000-2007 have be renumbered 41-48 and follow physically (in the sheets) after claim 40. Except for renumbered claims 41-48, all other claims are withdrawn.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (withdrawn) A method of sending a payload from an Inquisitor Station to a network of Inquisitee Stations, comprising the steps of: (a) ascribing to each Inquisitee Station, a set of Contextual Variables and its Contextual Values therefor, to form that Inquisitee Station's Contextual Attributes; (b) forming the sought identity of a Inquisitee Station to receive the payload, said sought identity being a function of appropriate values for said Contextual Variables; (c) Inquisitor Station sending to all Inquisitee Stations, a CAS message having (i) the payload and (ii) said sought identity; and (d) each Inquisitee Station determining, upon receipt of said CAS message, if it has, based on its Contextual Attributes, said sought identity, and thereupon processing the payload if it has said identity.
2. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said Inquisitor Station is agnostic about the logical links, if any, between it and said Inquisitee Stations having the sought identity, for the purposes of said CAS message.
3. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-2, wherein said Inquisitee Station, in performing "step (d) determining", uses said function on its said Contextual Attributes and compares result with said sought identity.
4. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-3 wherein "step (b) function" uses: (i) said sought C values for said Contextual Variables and (ii) one of {Boolean, linear,

non-linear and fuzzy} logic.

5. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-4, wherein "step (a) ascribing" is Business-motivated.

7. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-5, wherein "step (a) ascribing" is Manufacturer-motivated.

8. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-5, wherein "step (a) ascribing" is implemented by interaction with the Inquisitee Station's environment.

9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein said environment includes an aspect of the physical environment, and said Inquisitee Station is equipped to measure said aspect of physical environment and said interaction includes measuring said aspect.

10. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein said environment includes information related to another Inquisitee Station and the interaction includes coordinating (time) therewith.

11. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-7, wherein "step (b) developing of sought identity" is Business-motivated.

9. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-8, wherein "step (c) sending" is a broadcast of a single CAS message to all Inquisitee Stations.

10. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-9, further comprising a communication proxy, wherein "step (c) sending" uses said communication proxy.

11. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-10, wherein the network operates on a conventional protocol contemplating multicasting and "step (c) sending" is a

multicast of said CAS message.

12. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1-11, wherein the network is organized according to the topology of a tree and the Inquisitor Station is at the root of the tree and the Inquisitee Stations are at the branches of the tree.

13. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1-11, wherein the network is organized according to the topology of a ring.

14. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1-11, wherein the network is organized according to the topology of a common bus shared among the Inquisitor Station and the Inquisitee Stations.

15. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-14, wherein "step (c) sending" is implemented by wireless RF technology.

16. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-15, wherein said "step (d) determining" is performed approximately simultaneously.

17. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-16, wherein "step (c) sending" is implemented by: (i) a first communications protocol used between the Inquisitor Station and said communication proxy and (ii) a second communications protocol used between said communication proxy and said Inquisitee Stations.

18. (withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein said first communications protocol is a RF narrow band technology.

19. (withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein said second communications protocol is RF spread spectrum technology.

20. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-19, wherein each Inquisitee Station

includes Interaction Module.

21. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-20, wherein one said Contextual Variable is controllable by the business operating the Inquisitee Station ("Business Contextual Variable").

22. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-21, wherein said Business Contextual Variable relates to the user of the Inquisitee Station's Interaction Module (e.g. billing plan, ownership).

23. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-22, wherein said Business Contextual Variable relates to a metric measured by the Inquisitee Station's Interaction Module (e.g. voltage levels).

24. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-23, wherein said Business Contextual Variable relates to the network environment of the Inquisitee Station's Interaction Module.

25. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-24, wherein said Business Contextual Variable relates to time obtained from elsewhere in the network.

26. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-25, wherein one said Contextual Variable is exclusively controllable by the Manufacturer of the network devices ("Manufacturer Property").

27. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-26, wherein said Manufacturer Property relates to infrastructure aspects of the Inquisitee Station (e.g. firm ware version, hardware version, Network ID).

28. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-27, wherein "step (d) processing" of payload, is performed immediately upon Inquisitee Station determining that it has

the sought identity.

29. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-28, wherein "step (d) determining", is performed after a Business-motivated delay.

30. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-29, wherein said Business-motivated delay is expressed by the received CAS message (e.g. Contextual Variable with desired value therefor).

31. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-30, wherein among the Inquisitee Stations, there is a filler functional Inquisitee Station and a lesser functional Inquisitee Station, and said fuller functional Inquisitee Station provides a service to the lesser functional Inquisitee Station so that the output of said lesser functional Inquisitee Station approximates that of a fuller functional Inquisitee Stations from the point of view of the remainder of the network.

32. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-31, wherein said lesser functional Inquisitee Station is equipped to send a (non-Contextual) message but cannot receive a (non-Contextual) message.

33. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-32, wherein said lesser functional Inquisitee Station has a clock that cannot be coordinated with a clock employed elsewhere in the network.

34. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-33, wherein said fuller functional Inquisitee Station has a battery back-up and said lesser functional Inquisitee Station does not.

35. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-34, wherein said lesser functional Inquisitee Station inherits a Contextual Attribute from its custodial, fuller functional Inquisitee Station.

36. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-35, wherein one Inquisitee Station is supported by two businesses and has Business Contextual Attributes for each said businesses respectively manipulable by each said business.

37. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-36, wherein said CAS message is implemented at one layer when viewed relative to the OSI frame of reference.

38. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-37, wherein said CAS message is implemented partially at a first layer and partially at a second layer, when viewed relative to the OSI frame of reference.

39. (withdrawn) The method of claims 1-38, wherein the function of the CAS message operating on a Inquisitee Station's Contextual Attributes, forms the Contextual Address for that Inquisitee Station for that instant in time.

40. (withdrawn) . The method of claims 1-39, wherein a Inquisitee Station forms a plurality of Contextual Addresses in response to the receipt of a plurality of CAS messages.

[[2000.]] 41. (currently amended) A method of homogenizing a network having a first heterogeneous element that produces a first output and a second heterogeneous element that produces a second output, comprising the step of providing a service to the second heterogeneous element to make [[its]] said [[first]] second output appear to be of an element that has the same sentient nature as said [[second output]] first heterogeneous element.

[[2001.]] 42. (currently amended) The method of claim [[2000]] 41, wherein first heterogeneous element is a fuller functional station having a set of features and said second heterogeneous element is a lesser functional station having a